

February is Women's History month

MASTICS ■ COMMUNITY
MORICHES ■ LIBRARY
SHIRLEY ■

★ Women and the ★ American Revolution on Long Island

Join us for this conference on the unsung heroes of the American Revolution: Women! Be sure to check out the upstairs exhibits featuring local artists and craftswomen, and enjoy desserts based on authentic 18th-century recipes.

8:45 - 9:15 AM
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION

9:15 - 9:30 AM
WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

9:30 - 10:10 AM
"Surviving the Ordeal: Long Island Women During the Revolutionary Era."
Opening Plenary Session, Natalie Naylor, retired Hofstra University professor, also the editor of the Nassau County Historical Society annual Journal, the author of Women in Long Island's Past, and many articles on Long Island history.

10:30 - 11:10 AM
"Bearing the Nation: Enslaved Women, Labor, and the Creation of the United States."
Melanie Cardone-Leathers, Certified Archivist, and Head of the Thomas R. Bayles Local History Room at Longwood Public Library.

11:30 AM - 12:10 PM
"Pacifism is Not Neutrality: Quaker Women and the Answer of Peace During America's Founding."
Karly Hoensch, Director of Library Program and Information Resources, Friends Academy in Locust Valley.

12:30 - 12:50 PM
REFRESHMENT BREAK

12:50 - 1:30 PM
"Unspoken: Lice, Lard, and Lust, or, the 18th-century Woman's Battle Against the Odds."
Diane Schwindt, Culinary and Cultural historian and Director of the Smith Estate at Longwood.

1:30 - 3:00 PM
Networking and Dessert
Open networking session to walk around and meet the speakers, share stories, and exchange business cards and other information with one another.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Main Library
407 William Floyd Pkwy Shirley, NY 11967

For more information,
please call 631-399-1511 ext. 2024



For more information please call 631-399-1511 x2023. Photographs may be taken at any of the library's programs. These photos may be used in library publicity, including but not limited to the library newsletter and web page. If you do not want photos taken of you or your child(ren), be sure to inform the library staff member overseeing the program before the program begins. All photographs are the property of the library. If you will be joining us for a meeting or program, please let us know in advance if you need an accommodation that will make the event accessible to you.

We recommend this meeting
At the Shirley-Mastic Library, March 20, 9am - 3pm

Hi friends!

We have been hearing for weeks that the Governor will try to weaken or roll back New York's Climate Law in the budget.

Last night we found out that the Assembly will be conferencing the Climate Law at noon today. It is crucial that we get calls in to Democrat Assemblymember offices (particularly Upstate Assemblymembers) .

Please send an emergency request for your organization members and allies to call their Democrat Assemblymembers and tell them:

- Do not negotiate New York's Climate Law as part of the budget.
- The Climate Law does not require the approach the governor is proposing or that NYSERDA has included in its recent memo. This is a manufactured crisis.
- Rolling back the Climate Law does absolutely nothing to address energy costs for constituents. Gas prices and infrastructure are driving increased costs, and this is made worse by the Trump Administration.

Landra Leimanis, on behalf of groups working to defend the Climate Law Program
Director

Alliance for a Green Economy

[315-677-7824](tel:315-677-7824) (texting is great!)

League of Women Voters Statement on Military Action in Iran

We are asking each LWV member (to cut & paste this letter into your own) email, mail or call this statement into your US Representatives. We are asking our League members to make their calls and send emails within a 3-hour window, Friday, 3/6, from 12:00 to 3 PM. If you are unable to do so during this time period, please send when you can.

Dear [Enter Representative Name],

As a concerned citizen, a constituent from [Enter your town], and a proud member of the League of Women Voters, I am writing/calling to express my deep concern about the recent actions by the President against Iran.

To quote the LWV statement put out by Celine Stewart, the LWV Chief Executive Officer, "The League of Women Voters is deeply concerned by the President's decision to initiate unprovoked military action against Iran without prior congressional authorization.

This is not about the character of any individual involved. It is about constitutional authority and the dangerous subversion of our system of checks and balances.

The Constitution clearly assigns the power to declare war to Congress, an authority that was intentionally ignored. When a president goes around Congress to initiate military action, it is not a sign of strength. It is an executive overreach & dangerous to Americans, both domestically and abroad.

The President's recent actions fit a broader and alarming pattern of stretching emergency powers that pushes those limits toward rupture. By invoking emergency powers, bypassing legislative oversight, and concentrating authority in the executive branch, these patterns risk weakening the safeguards of our republic and eroding the accountability that protects against overreach.

There are no verified threats to our elections that justify extraordinary or unilateral action. Repeated claims of foreign interference used to rationalize expanded executive authority have been investigated and disproven. Escalatory actions like this only heighten instability abroad and deepen division at home.

Congress must immediately assert its constitutional role, demand transparency, and reaffirm that decisions of war and peace cannot rest with one administration.

As your constituent, I sincerely urge you to do what you were elected to do, which is to uphold the Constitution, assert Congressional authority, and to protect democratic checks and balances.

Sincerely Yours,

The addresses for the US Congressional representatives follow:

Nick LaLota, 1st District of NY <https://lalota.house.gov>

Washington DC office 122 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
15 Hauppauge Road, Suite 3B, Hauppauge, NY 11788
202-225-3826, 631-289-1097

Andrew Garbarino, 2nd District of NY <https://garbarino.house.gov>

Washington DC Office 2344 Rayburn House Office Building DC 20515-3201
31 Oak Street, Suite 20, Patchogue, NY 11772
202-225-7896 631-541-4225

Thomas Suozzi, 3rd District of NY <https://suozzi.house.gov/>

Washington DC Office, 203 Cannon House, Washington, DC 20515
Office Building 51 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY 11542
202-225-3335 516-861-1070

Laura Gillen, 4th district of NY, <https://gillen.house.gov/>

Washington DC Office 428 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515 Suite 102
229 Seventh St, Garden City, NY 11530 202-225-5516 516-739-3008

Kirsten Gillibrand, NYS Senator, <https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/>

Washington DC Office 478 Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington. DC 20510
155 Pinelawn Rd Suite 250N, Melville, NY 11747
(202) 224-4451. Tel. (631) 249-2825
Fax (202) 228-4977. Fax (202) 224-0044

Sen. Chuck Schumer <https://www.schumer.senate.gov/>

Washington DC Office 322 Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC 20510, (202) 224-6542
145 Pinelawn Road, Suite 300N, Melville, NY 11747, (631) 753-0978

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MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK –

Are We Making Any Progress Protecting Our Water?

by Nancy Marr

In 2017 the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP) warned us that “the levels of nitrogen on Long Island from sewer and septic systems and cesspools and stormwater runoff, are harming both our surface and ground waters,” referring particularly to the nitrogen that is not removed from the more than 360,000 existing cesspools and conventional septic systems before it is released on the ground or waters. As part of a broad, multi-pronged effort to combat nitrogen pollution, the Suffolk County Department of Health Services made changes to the Suffolk County Sanitary Code that close a loophole that has existed for decades. Former Health Commissioner Dr. James Tomarken said, “the use of cesspools in new construction has been outlawed in Suffolk County since 1973 but because the regulations did not address replacement systems, owners of cesspools had been able to replace a failed cesspool with another cesspool rather than adding a septic tank to comply with the new requirements, which require, at a minimum, a septic tank preceding a leaching structure. Homeowners may now also voluntarily install innovative, onsite wastewater-treatment systems, I/A OWTS, which are designed to reduce nitrogen pollution, as an alternative.

LINAP identified the need for a management district to provide the administrative and legal structure necessary to protect our waters. In 2024, the New York State Legislature authorized Suffolk County to create a water quality restoration fund and a county management district (CWMD). The science-based Suffolk County Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan (SWP), written by the Suffolk County Health Department with the support of a variety of stakeholders and environmental advocates and the CWMD, developed an implementation strategy and timeline for the project. It created an administrative structure for the county’s long-term water quality plan, including the conversion of all cesspools and septic systems to nitrogen-reducing A/I OWTS systems and the merger of all the sewers in the county to one centralized system. In order to be sure that the goals of clean water are met and homeowners can afford to install and maintain the new I/A OWTS systems, the county plans a program to offer financial assistance to homeowners to install and maintain I/A OWTS systems.

Suffolk County Legislators proposed creating the Water Quality Restoration Fund, which could provide grants from the NYS Septic Improvement Program (SIP) and suggested a .0125% increase of the county sales tax. However after much discussion the hearing was closed along partisan lines by legislators who wanted a greater balance between funds for sewers and cesspool replacement, despite the obvious greater need for funds for cesspool replacement. Fortunately, in 2024 the funding referendum was approved with 72% of the vote, and the extra tax was collected starting March 1, 2025.

In order to be sure that homeowners can afford to install and maintain the new I/A OWTS systems, the county plans a program to provide county financing or a New York State loan.

During the two-month comment period held by the county when it presented the Wastewater Plan (SWP), many county residents raised concerns and questions. One related to the effect of agriculture, and the over-use of nitrogen fertilizer on lawns and farms. Public education is recommended to inform residents and their landscapers that they should add organic materials to support overall soil health, and not nitrogen-based fertilizer. Carbon-based materials such as organic fertilizers, compost, grass clippings or cover crops provide a range of benefits to both plants and soil and provide carbon to feed soil microorganisms, increase soil organic matter, and improve overall soil health. Adding organic materials to soil also improves water holding capacity in sandy soils and increases drainage and aeration in clay soils. Using organic materials as mulch can suppress weed growth, reduce temperature and moisture fluctuations, prevent transmission of soil-borne plant pathogens, and minimize soil erosion, and incorporating organic materials can actually reduce the need for supplemental fertilizers based on nitrogen.

Since 1973 replacement of existing cesspools or septic systems must meet the new standards and install a septic tank preceding a leaching structure or a new onsite wastewater treatment system which is designed to reduce nitrogen pollution. To find out more, visit www.reclaimourwater.info or call 631-852-5811.

In addition, the increase of funding for sewers, which was supported by developers, labor unions, and many of the legislators, would make it possible to build more housing, but would also encourage building projects on land that could be preserved. The SWP cautions that all sewer projects require project-specific feasibility studies and environmental State Environmental Quality Reviews (SEQR) to be sure that they are well situated and planned.

Nancy Marr is Vice-President of the League of Women Voters of Suffolk County, a nonpartisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Visit <https://my.lwv.org/new-york/Suffolk-county> or call 631-862-6860
